

REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed on February 25, 2004. Applicant mailed a timely Response to Office Action on August 25, 2004, together with a Petition for a three-month extension of time.

During November 2004, Examiner Abelson contacted Applicant's representative to discuss claim amendments made in the Response of August 25. Applicant thanks Examiner Abelson for his helpful questions and comments, and for his review in December of a proposed claim revision to independent claim 10.

Applicant amends claim 10 to recite:

10. A voice gateway interconnecting IP networks with other networks for voice communication, said voice gateway comprising:

a call-setup part which after detecting a call-setup request from one of said other networks, transmits a destination inquiring message to a predetermined voice gateway, and after receiving a destination determination message from a destination voice gateway, performs a call setup towards a destination transport address included in said destination determination message from said destination voice gateway;

wherein said destination inquiring message includes a destination number and a transport address of said voice gateway; and

wherein said predetermined voice gateway holds a route selection table, collates the destination number of said destination inquiring message with steering numbers in said route selection table to select a corresponding steering number, selects a transport address from the route selection table based on the selected steering number, and forwards said destination inquiring message toward a next voice gateway addressed by the selected transport address, wherein said next voice gateway is one of a) the destination voice gateway and b) another voice gateway having address information for the destination voice gateway; and

wherein said voice gateway transmits said destination inquiring message to an address for said predetermined voice gateway that is recorded in a

declaration table of said voice gateway, said address for said predetermined gateway being determined independently of the destination number of the destination inquiring message.

Support for the amendments to independent claim 10 may be found, for example, with reference to Applicant's FIG. 5 and Applicant's specification at page 16, line 4 through page 17, line 24. According to Applicant's claimed invention as claimed in amended claim 10, a voice gateway is disclosed that forwards a destination inquiring message to a predetermined voice gateway for routing to a destination voice gateway, wherein the voice gateway forwards the destination inquiring message to an address for the predetermined voice gateway that is recorded in a declaration table of the voice gateway, and is determined independently of the destination number of the destination inquiring message. Applicant suggests that none of the cited references, including U.S. Patent No. 6,584,093 just recently asserted by Examiner Abelson, disclose or suggest these limitations of Applicant's claimed invention, and that amended independent claim 10 is in condition for allowance.

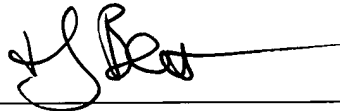
Applicant also amends independent claims 1, 4, 11, 12, 16, 17, 23 and 24 to essentially include the amendments of amended independent claim 10, and respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 4, 11, 12, 16, 17, 23 and 24 are also allowable. As dependent claims 3, 5 – 8, 13 – 15, and 18 – 21 each depend from one of allowable claims 1, 10, 11 and 17, Applicant further submits that claims 3, 5 – 8, 13 – 15, and 18 – 21 are allowable for at least this reason.

In view of the remarks set forth above, this application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested. However, if for any reason the

Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Bean', is written over a horizontal line.

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